IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims with the same numbers in the above-identified application.

1. (currently amended) A cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion comprising:

a) a polymer product of at least one polymerizable acrylic and/or vinyl containing monomer;

b) in the presence of an aqueous dispersion of at least one fluoropolymer, wherein at least one ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane containing group is present in a), b), or both.

2. (currently amended) A cross-linkable fluoropolymer blend comprising:

a) at least one acrylic resin or vinyl resin, or both,

b) at least one thermoplastic fluoropolymer, wherein a) and b) are different, wherein at least one ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane or silane group is polymerized in the backbone of a), b), or both.

3. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said at least one thermoplastic fluoropolymer is uniformly distributed throughout said cross-linkable fluoropolymer blend.

4. (currently amended) A cross-linkable fluoropolymer blend comprising:

a) at least one polymer comprising acrylic units, vinyl units, or both, and at least one ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane or silane containing group; and

b) at least one thermoplastic fluoropolymer, wherein a) and b) are different.

5. (currently amended) A cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion comprising a polymer product resulting from polymerizing at least one polymerizable acrylic and/or vinyl

containing monomer and at least one ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane monomer in the presence of an aqueous dispersion of at least one fluoropolymer.

6. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said at least one thermoplastic fluoropolymer is a copolymer.

7. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said fluoropolymer comprises poly(vinylidene fluoride).

8. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said acrylic resin or vinyl resin is fluorinated.

9. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said acrylic resin or vinyl resin is a copolymer.

10. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said fluoropolymer is a homopolymer.

11. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said fluoropolymer is a mixture of a fluoropolymer with a non-fluoropolymer.

12. (original) The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said polymer product includes a functional monomer.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The polymer blend of claim ~~13~~ 2, wherein said ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane monomer is a silane monomer containing at least one vinyl group, a silane group present as a chain transfer agent or initiator, an organosilane group having a functional group which can react with a functional side group on

an existing polymer chain, or combinations thereof.

15. (currently amended) A cross-linkable fluoropolymer blend comprising:

a) at least one polymer comprising acrylic units, vinyl units, or both and optionally at least one ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane or silane containing group; and

b) at least one thermoplastic fluoropolymer having an organosilane moiety, wherein a) and b) are different.

16. (currently amended) A method of preparing a cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion comprising polymerizing at least one polymerizable acrylic and/or vinyl containing monomer and at least one ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane monomer in the presence of an aqueous dispersion of at least one fluoropolymer.

17. (currently amended) A method of making a cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion comprising polymerizing at least one fluoromonomer in the presence of a ~~hydrolytically stable~~ sterically hindered silane monomer to form a fluoropolymer containing silane units and polymerizing at least one acrylic and/or vinyl containing monomer in the presence of the fluoropolymer dispersion.

18. (original) A paint comprising the cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 1.

19. (original) A coating formulation comprising the cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 1.

20. (original) A cross-linked fluoropolymer resulting from cross-linking said cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 1.

a1

21. (original) The cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 1, further comprising at least one internal buffer.

Please add the following new claim.

22. (new) A cross-linkable fluoropolymer blend comprising:

a) at least one acrylic resin or vinyl resin, or both,

b) at least one thermoplastic fluoropolymer, wherein a) and b) are different, wherein at least one hydrolytically stable silane or silane group is polymerized in the backbone of a), b), or both, wherein said cross-linkable fluoropolymer blend is storage stable for at least three months at room temperature in an aqueous dispersion.

23. (new) The cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 1, wherein said sterically hindered silane containing group is a sterically hindered organo-silane monomer.

a2

24. (new) The cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 1, wherein said sterically hindered silane containing group has the formula:

$$R^2R_n^3\,Si(OR^1)_{3-n} \qquad (I),$$

wherein n is an integer of from 0 to 2, or of the formula:

$$R^2[Si(R^3)_k(\text{--}OR^1)_{2-k}(O)]_m\,R^3 \qquad (II),$$

wherein m is an integer of from about 2 to about 10; k is an integer of from 0 to 1; and R^1 represents at least one C_3 or higher branched alkyl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclic group with or without at least one fluorine substituent; R^2 represents at least one alkenyl or allyl, acrylate, or methacrylate containing group; R^3 represents at least one n-alkyl, C_3 or higher branched alkyl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclic group.

25. (new) The cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 2, wherein said

sterically hindered silane containing group is a sterically hindered organo-silane monomer.

26. (new) The cross-linkable fluoropolymer dispersion of claim 2, wherein said sterically hindered silane or silane group has the formula:

$$R^2R_n^3\,Si(OR^1)_{3-n} \qquad (I),$$

wherein n is an integer of from 0 to 2, or of the formula:

$$R^2[Si(R^3)_k(\text{--}OR^1)_{2-k}(O)]_m\,R^3 \qquad (II),$$

a2 wherein m is an integer of from about 2 to about 10; k is an integer of from 0 to 1; and R^1 represents at least one C_3 or higher branched alkyl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclic group with or without at least one fluorine substituent; R^2 represents at least one alkenyl or allyl, acrylate, or methacrylate containing group; R^3 represents at least one n-alkyl, C_3 or higher branched alkyl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclic group.